

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
B-307 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Granger, Carter, and Cole, and Ranking Members Lowey, Roybal-Allard, and DeLauro:

As you begin work on your respective fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations bills, we urge you to block all funding for the Central America Minors (CAM) program.

On December 1, 2014, in the face of serious national security threats and despite vigorous opposition from Congress, the Obama Administration began accepting applications for its new CAM Program. Under the CAM program, the Obama Administration allows illegal immigrants

from Central American countries to fly to the United States and be admitted in order to provide “a safe, legal, and orderly alternative to the dangerous journey that some children are currently undertaking to the United States.”

Media reports have indicated that participants in the program could include felons and immigrants that were previously deported. Shockingly, in a December 17, 2015 letter to multiple members of Congress, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Leon Rodriquez acknowledged as much stating, “USCIS does not track systematically how many applicants were previously deported or previously convicted of a felony”. This unconstitutional program promotes lawlessness and incentivizes further illegal immigration.

As of December 9, 2015, “six refugees and twelve parolees” have been admitted into the U.S. under the CAM program. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson recently stated that 7,606 applications for individuals seeking to utilize this program and enter the United States from three Central American countries had been received as of March 9, 2016.

The CAM program provides cash, loans for flights, reimbursements for DNA testing, and medical assistance to participants in the program. According to the 2015 letter, “Admitted refugees are immediately eligible to work and have legal status in the United States.” Shockingly, the program also waives fees for participating illegal immigrants—fees that are required for potential legal immigrants who wish to enter this country in accordance with our laws. Such practices are an affront to the Rule of Law.

The December 2015 letter also stated that “16 parents who have completed an Affidavit of Relationship under the CAM program were DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients” and indicated that the program could also eventually accept applications from the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program. DACA and DAPA were both created by the Obama Administration through unconstitutional executive actions. An injunction to stop the creation of DAPA and expansion of DACA was recently upheld by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

According to the Washington Times, “More than 110,000 Central American family members have sneaked into our country over the past year and a half, putting strains on schools and authorities who have to educate and police the newcomers.” It defies commonsense that this administration is exacerbating these challenges by providing loans for flights and other services under the CAM program in order to bring illegal immigrants from Central America to the United States. To make matters worse, these illegal aliens can obtain a green card within one year after receiving “refugee” status and are immediately eligible for taxpayer funded benefits for things like Obamacare.

Under our Article 1, Section 8 of our Constitution, Congress has the responsibility to make immigration laws and authorize new programs. Congress has never authorized the CAM program. Therefore, we ask that the program be completely defunded in your respective appropriations bills.

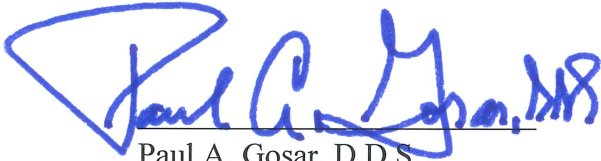
Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following for FY 2017:

Central American Minors Program

"Sec. _____. (a) IN GENERAL.— Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds, resources or fees made available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, or to any other official of a Federal agency, by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year, including any deposits into the 'Immigration Examinations Fee Account' established under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)), may be used to implement, administer, or carry out, the Central American Minors Refugee/Parole Program."

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on your respective committees.

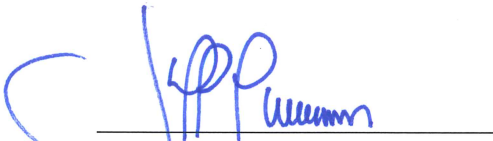
Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



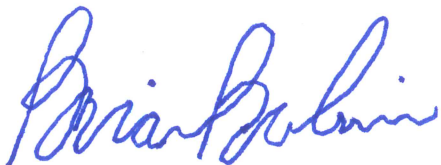
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



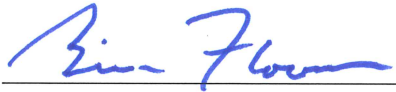
Dave Brat
Member of Congress



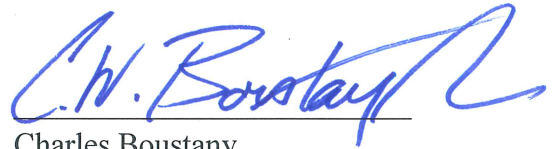
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



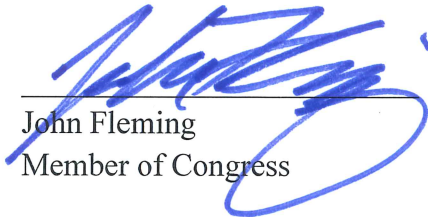
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



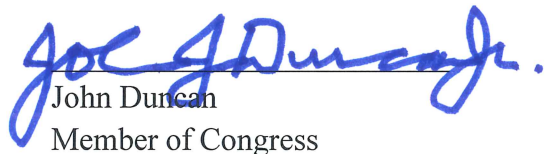
Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Charles Boustany
Member of Congress



John Fleming
Member of Congress




John Duncan
Member of Congress



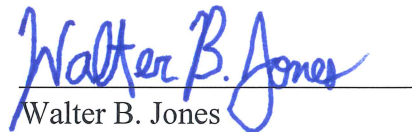
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



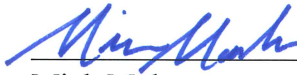
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress

